

Appl. No. : **09/771,439**
Filed : **January 26, 2001**

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 and 2 as shown.

Claim 1. (Three times amended) A method for collecting nucleic acids, which comprises:

contacting a sample nucleic acid solution with a nucleic acid-immobilized substrate comprising a substrate and single-stranded nucleic acids having different nucleotide sequences, said single-stranded nucleic acids being each separately immobilized on the substrate, whereby immobilized portions of the immobilized single-stranded nucleic acids are provided on the nucleic acid-immobilized substrate;

hybridizing the immobilized single-stranded nucleic acids and single-stranded nucleic acids contained in the sample nucleic acid solution and complementary to the immobilized single-stranded nucleic acids to form hybridized nucleic acids; and

collecting the hybridized nucleic acids separately according to the immobilized portions by a means selected from the group consisting of:

- (1) rubbing off the immobilized portions; and
- (2) shaving off the immobilized portions.

Claim 2. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid-immobilized substrate is a substrate on which the single-stranded nucleic acids having different nucleotide sequences are immobilized via a compound having a carbodiimide group carried on the substrate.

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended. Claims 1-10 are now pending in this application. Support for the amendments is found in the existing claims and the specification as discussed below. Accordingly, the amendments do not constitute the addition of new matter. Applicant respectfully requests the entry of the amendments and reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

The specific changes to the specification and the amended claims are shown on a separate set of pages attached hereto and entitled **VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**, which follows the signature page of this Amendment. On this set of pages, insertions are underlined and deletions are struck through.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph